RCE SASKATCHEWAN
REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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2023 Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Award Application Guide

The Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan (RCE-SK) is accepting applications for its 15th Annual Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Event which recognizes innovative projects that are advancing sustainability through education.

Application Deadline: Midnight, March 31, 2023.
Submission details are on the application form.

How will applications be evaluated?

Adjudicators will look for clear descriptions of:

- The "***where, why, what, when and how***" of your project.
- The **Education for Sustainable Development** component(s) of your project.
- How your project supports **Sustainable Development** and one or more the United Nations' **17 Sustainable Development Goals**.
- The accomplishments and milestone(s) that your project achieved by March 31, 2023.
- How your project may contribute to ongoing momentum toward sustainability.

Submitting additional documentation that relates to the application questions and illustrates the project is encouraged. This documentation should supplement what is already written, not act as the sole source of information. Examples include low resolution photographs, scanned news articles, brochures, links to videos. Do not email very large files as they may exceed the capacity of our inbox.

What is *Education for Sustainable Development* (ESD)?

ESD is an ongoing, life-long process that can be integrated in education systems, as well as non-formal and informal education.

- **Education Systems**: kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools, as well as technical institutes, colleges, and universities.
- **Non-formal Education**: education, training, and public awareness that occurs through organizations outside the formal school system, such as businesses and community-based organizations.
- **Informal Education**: educational activities aimed at the public, including traditional and social media, events and performances.

ESD supports social wellbeing, economic prosperity, and ecological health by:

- furthering understanding of how social, cultural, economic and environmental issues interconnect;
- supporting the advancement of one or more of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**;
- contributing to solving one or more major sustainability challenge;
- contributing toward achieving principles outlined in the **Earth Charter**; and/or
- engaging communities to translate knowledge into action that supports positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

What is *Sustainable Development*?

Two common definitions of sustainable development are "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" and "improving the quality of life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems." Further, sustainable development:

- supports the advancement of one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; and
- contributes toward achieving Earth Charter principles outlined at https://earthcharter.org.

What are the *17 Sustainable Development Goals*?

In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda calls for action by all countries to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Details on the SDGs can be found at www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment.

What is RCE Saskatchewan

The Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan (RCE-SK) was officially designated in March 2007.

An RCE is a network of individuals, organizations and experts who use education as a tool for building a sustainable future. The Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) program is an initiative of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

Worldwide, there are more than 105 RCEs that promote and support transformative education for sustainable development that fosters sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods and supports one or more of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Examples of Projects Recognized in the Past

Initiative	Why is it ESD?
The **Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative** helps preserve & build natural & cultural heritage in communities bringing together partners from a variety of sectors (the museums, governments and non-governmental organizations, businesses, volunteers, and researchers) to advance projects with important cultural and environmental dimensions.	● Promoted critical thinking about sustainability: natural and cultural environment linkages ● Empowered participants to act ● Fostered collaboration: brought together a variety of sectors ● Hands-on: demonstration sites provide opportunities for public to learn about sustainable development
Regina's Edible Campus is an organic community garden at the University of Regina that brings together faculty, staff, students and community members to plant and harvest high quality vegetables. Produce harvested from the community gardens is donated to the Carmichael Outreach Centre. The Edible Campus is a partnership between the First Nations University of Canada, the Regina Public Interest Group, Wascana Centre Authority and the Institut Français.	● Hands-on: demonstration site for the community to learn about food production, healthy lifestyles, and food security ● Fostered collaboration: brought together faculty, staff, students, and community members ● Empowered changes in behaviour: promoted healthy lifestyles by giving marginalized groups access to high quality vegetables
Non-partisan Climate Action Awareness Signs developed "I Vote for Climate Action: Talk to me about your plan" election signs for the 2019 Federal Election that were available for the public. A social media campaign (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Mailchimp) featured photographs of politicians, scientists, educators, and others with a sign and a quote featuring their climate action.	● Included social media and other communications materials ● Empowered action: made signs available to the public ● Promoted critical thinking about sustainability: featured climate action of variety of citizens
Footprints is an initiative of the First Nations University of Canada Northern Campus. Initially the goals were to develop an on-campus recycling program and to promote awareness of waste. It later grew to include wider initiatives including local food, composting, and hosting Earth Day events.	● Fostered collaboration: committee with broad representation, including students, was established to address local environmental concerns. ● Empowered changes in behaviour: the committee gained wide support and its educational efforts reached many students.
SaskPower Energy Conservation & Efficiency Education Program provides customers with information to assist in effectively managing electricity use with the goal of saving money, benefiting the environment and helping SaskPower manage infrastructure growth.	● Included communications materials ● Promoted critical thinking about sustainability: helped individuals to understand the benefits of energy conservation and efficiency to themselves, society, and the environment ● Motivated behaviour change
Regina Catholic Schools' **Oil Recycling Project** is organized and operated by students to provide Regina residents with an opportunity to drop off used oil products.	● Hands-on: operated by students ● Promoted critical thinking about sustainability: students learned about the impacts of the disposal of used oil ● Motivated changes in behaviour: built students' capacity and life-long skills for leadership ● Involved collaborative action: organized by students
Prairie Spruce Commons is Regina's first multi-generational cohousing community committed to creating a beautiful, sustainable, green building with abundant common spaces.	● Fostered collaborative decision-making: built capacity in members for cooperative decision-making ● Promoted critical thinking about sustainability: collaborative design of building which optimized energy and water efficiency ● Motivated change in behaviour: building located to reduce transportation-related ecological footprint